

General Regulations – Bear

Season Limit: 1 for Archery and Firearms Seasons combined

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident (Classes X+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, or Classes A+CS+DS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen); or nonresident (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 8) hunting on their own land may hunt bear without a license.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Class EE)
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners)



It is illegal to:

- hunt bears with the use of bait.
- feed bears.
- hunt a bear with:
 1. a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball.
 2. a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition.
 3. a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottlenecked case of less than .24 caliber.
 4. a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
 5. a crossbow, except for the holder of a Class Y permit during designated archery season. Crossbows must have:
 - » a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
 - » a working safety.
 - » bolts at least 18 inches long.
 - » broadheads with at least two cutting edges at least ¾ -inch in width.
 6. to hunt bear with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than ¾ of an inch in width.
- to use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- to use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- hunt bear between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill any bear through the use of poison, explosives, snares, steel traps or deadfalls.
- shoot at or kill a cub bear weighing less than 100 pounds or to kill any bear accompanied by such cub.
- pursue a bear, after the chase has begun, with dogs not in use at the beginning of the hunt.
- kill more than one bear per year.
- organize for commercial purposes, or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt.
- for nonresidents to hunt bear with dogs, except in certain designated counties during the bear gun season (see page 34).
- use an electronic call.

Penalties For Chapter 20 Bear Law Violations

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

1st Offense

\$1,000 to \$5,000 fine or 30 to 100 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years.

2nd Offense

\$2,000 to \$7,000 fine or 30 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for life.

3rd Offense

FELONY - \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine or 1 to 5 years in prison, or both.

Bear – General Regulations

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a bear must attach a completed field tag to the bear or remain with the bear and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel the field tag shall be attached to the bear and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with an official game checking tag.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, transport the bear or its fresh skin to a conservation officer or an official game checking station for retagging. A checking tag must be affixed to the bear before any part of it may be transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill, and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted.

Dog Training

The same licenses required for bear hunting are required for the training of dogs on bear.

Training for nonresidents may begin October 6, 2007 and continue through February 29, 2008.

- It is unlawful for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow upon the track of any deer or wild turkey.
- Residents may train dogs on bear on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time. Prohibitions on Sunday hunting apply to dog training.
- Persons training dogs may not have firearms or other implements for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds.
- A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.
- No person other than the owner of a registered dog may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner, unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog, or is done by a law-enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

No person may transport wildlife killed by another hunter, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the official game checking tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Attention Bear Hunters - Bear Tooth Collection

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently studying factors related to the productivity and mortality of black bears in West Virginia. As part of this research effort, radio collars, ear tags and lip tattoos have been placed on a number of bears. Anyone observing a bear wearing a radio collar or ear tag is asked to report the number of the tag (if obtainable) to the DNR. Hunters that harvest a bear with a radio collar and/or ear tag should return this equipment to the DNR.

Successful bear hunters can contribute to this research effort by either pulling or allowing a small tooth or two to be pulled and submitted to the bear project. Hunters pulling a bear tooth should refer to the accompanying diagram.



Use a screwdriver to pry out the teeth located just in back of the large canines as shown. This is difficult to do without breaking the roots, so work slowly.

Each bear's tooth (or teeth) pulled should be taped to an index card, placed in a small envelope and labeled with the hunters name, county of kill, bear weight, and check tag number and dropped off at an official game checking station or mailed to the DNR at : Elkins Operation Center, PO Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. After processing the tooth, the DNR will provide you with the age of the animal. If you do not collect a tooth please contact the appropriate District DNR office to make arrangements for a tooth to be collected prior to processing the bear or disposing of the skull.

A tagged bear may have been tranquilized. Please contact the District Wildlife Biologist prior to consumption of meat.

Season Limit: 1

Statewide: October 13, 2007 - November 17, 2007

Bear Reproductive Tract Collection

WV Wildlife Biologists are continuing to collect female bear reproductive tracts. Information from these tracts, as well as a premolar tooth from each bear will reveal such data as breeding ages of females, number of cubs produced, age structure of the female population and reproductive success. Please help us obtain as much information as possible by following the outlined procedures. You may call any District DNR office or the Elkins Operations Center for assistance.

District 1: (304) 825-6787

District 2: (304) 822-3551

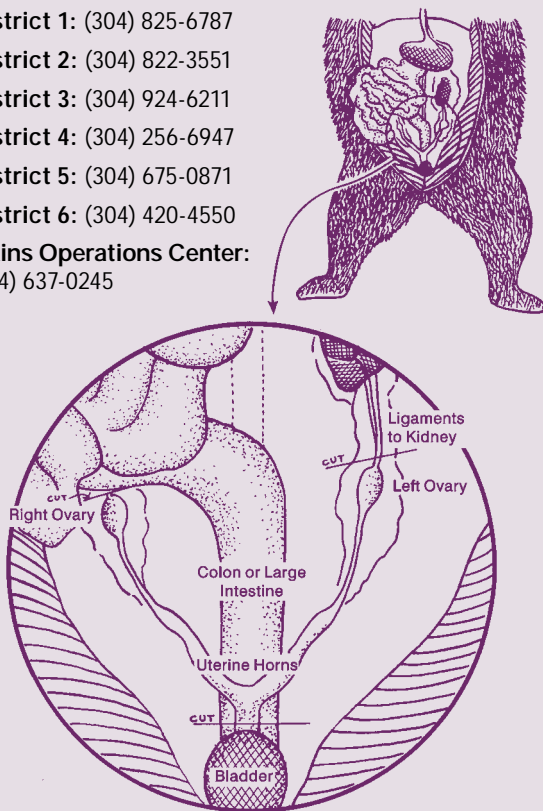
District 3: (304) 924-6211

District 4: (304) 256-6947

District 5: (304) 675-0871

District 6: (304) 420-4550

Elkins Operations Center:
(304) 637-0245



Procedures

1. Open bear abdominal cavity.
2. Move intestines aside.
3. Locate bladder.
4. Note uterus under bladder, over large intestine.
5. Remove uterus and ovaries by cutting as outlined in the above diagram. Be certain to get both ovaries which are each about the size of an acorn. They may be buried in large amounts of fat.
6. Put in plastic bag and place in cool location (in refrigerator if available), and notify DNR personnel.
7. If scales are available, weigh the bear.

The use of dogs while bow hunting for black bear is illegal during the bear archery season.



Bear – Firearms Season

Season Limit: 1

Counties not listed are closed to firearms bear hunting.

A bow, but not a crossbow, may be substituted for a firearm during bear firearms season.

May Hunt Bear With Or Without Dogs

Oct. 29 – Nov. 3
and December 3 - 31

December 3 - 31

Boone

Fayette

Kanawha

Raleigh

Barbour *(East of Route 92)*

Grant

Greenbrier

Hardy

Mineral *(West of New Creek)*

Monroe *(East of Route 219)*

Nicholas

Pendleton

Pocahontas

Preston

Randolph

Tucker

Webster

May not Hunt Bear With Dogs

November 19 - 24

December 3 - 31

Boone

Fayette

Kanawha

Raleigh

Barbour

(West of Route 92)

Berkeley

Braxton

Cabell

Clay

Hampshire

Jefferson

Lewis

Lincoln

Logan

Marion

Mason

McDowell

Mercer

Mingo

Mineral

(East of New Creek)

Monongalia

Monroe

(West of Route 219)

Morgan

Putnam

Summers

Upshur

Wayne

Wyoming